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Excerpts From California Attorney General's Opinion on John Birch Society

Dear Gov. Brown:

Pursuant to your request of recent date. I am reporting herewith on the John Birch Society.

The cadre of the John Birch Society. seems to be formed primarily of wealthy business men, retired military officers and little old ladies in tennis shoes. They are bound together by an obsessive fear of "Communism," a word which they define to include any ideas differing from their own, even

The Mirror of

though these ideas may differ even more markedly with the ideas of Marx, Engels, Len-Public Opinion in and Khrushto this fear they are willing to give

up a large rieasure of the freedoms Characterist there by the United States Constitution in taxor of compting the dictates of their founder." They seek, by fair merus or foul, to force the rest of as to follow their example. They are prometic.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy stated that the Buch Society is "ridiculous, and I don't think anybody should pay much attention to them." and William Mauldin, in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch lampooned the Birch Society with a cactoon entitled, "Malice in Words Aret

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Post-Disputch, April 2, 1961.

Malice in Wonderland

torce; in other words, under the guise of fighting Communism, we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into socialism and then the Communist camp." (p. 32.)

This results in a "heads they win. tails we lose" proposition of hideous proportion. If we increase American military might to res at Russia, we are playing into Russian hands. If we reduce American milita e might six are playing into Roysian bands. It is an wonder then that Welch and his Birchers are so francic in their tell ad reed terror.

pungspill. Burxian Methods?

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he par then here some nomine as in place no boxelan and bad atomics given a manyuban adi 1900,000 to arrana is a dirw had voted the trade to maintain the Army the United States, even though Congress of one of the strategic reserve divisions in earl edf gitbulant ,000,078 of 000,009 mort Army proceed with a reduction in strength President Eisenhower insisted that the In contrast, and in spite of the crizis, and with all the supporting units needed. dignestic fill of qu ment goind or bearof

clety oppose Eight rights, collective bargeting, and the social gospel of religions. In the pations which they rule, the Communists oppose these

4. The Birch Society believes in the organization of fronts. "We would organize fronts little fronts, big fronts. temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts. (p. 88.)

5. One of the least appealing of Welch's teachings is his open espousal of techniques which be, himself terms mean and dirty" (p. 96.) These tactics include the disruption of peace ful public meetings.

6. The Birch Society is a monolithm. authoritarian organization with the policy dictated from above and no dissent permitted in its ranks. The Communist party is a monolithic authoritarian organization with the policy dic tated from above and no dissent permit ed in its ranks,

Even the Russians apparently believe that Welch and the Birch Society are actively serving the Communist cause. The Literary Gazette of Moscow, under date of April 4, 1961, carried the following article in the Russian lan-

"THE FUHRER WELCH AND HIS JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY"

'Lenin said that the most ardent foes of Communism will eventually become frightened and suspicious of any and that does not agree with them . te this manner these extremely notionalistic capitalists will actually work for the cause of Communism by chimten hours that it is much deeper than th TOU SEASE when you are here only

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